

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, UR, XF

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN COUP

REF: USNATO 6321

FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS ON AFGHANISTAN FOR USE
AT POLADS POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 25.

-- MOST SIGNIFICANT RECENT POLITICAL EVENT HAS BEEN
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PURGE OF "PARCHAM" FACTION OF RULING PARTY. BABRAK KAMEL
AND A NUMBER OF HIS CLOSE PARTY ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN
EXILED ABROAD AS AMBASSADORS. IN LAST WEEK PURGE WAS
EXTENDED TO PROVINCIAL LEVEL WHEN THIRTEEN OF COUNTRY'S
27 PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS WERE REPLACED.

-- ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER TARAKI SEEMS TO HAVE CON-

SOLIDATED HIS CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT MACHINERY HE STILL FACES MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE ECONOMY IS STAGNATING AS MANY TRADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS APPEAR TO BE BIDING THEIR TIME. TARAKI ALSO FACES POSSIBLE OPPOSITION FROM CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY, AND AMONG THE TRIBES. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR ABOUT FIGHTING IN PAKTIA PROVINCE BETWEEN TRIBESMEN AND AFGHAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE UNITS.

-- PAKISTAN AND IRAN HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE CONCERN BECAUSE OF THE APPARENT INCREASE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. PAKISTAN ALSO IS APPREHENSIVE OVER POSSIBLE AFGHAN INTENTIONS TO RESURRECT THE PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN IRREDENTIST ISSUES. IRAN AND PAKISTAN BOTH CONSIDER AFGHANISTAN BOUND BY PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS TO RESPECT THE EXISTING BORDERS.

-- WHILE PAKISTAN AND IRAN ARE WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS IN KABUL VERY CLOSELY FOR A POTENTIAL THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY, THEY ARE PURSUING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO IT TO TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION. PAKISTAN HAS, IN FACT, MADE GESTURES OF GOOD WILL TO AFGHANISTAN LIKE EXPEDITING THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS THROUGH ITS TERRITORY. INDIA HAS SHOWN ITS AWARENESS OF THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR REGINAL SECURITY OF INCREASED

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SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND IT HAS MANIFESTED SUPPORT FOR ITS CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE.

-- THE SOVIET, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE CLEARLY CAPITALIZED ON SITUATION AND HAVE SIGNED OVER 30 NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH AFGHANS AND SENT IN ADDITIONAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ADVISORS.

-- WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED BY SITUATION IN AFGHAN- ISTAN AND DO NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN REGION. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE BEST COURSE FOR U.S. AND NATO ALLIES IS TO TRY AND WORK WITH NEW GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR AID, PEACE CORPS, MILITARY TRAINING, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONALISM AND GIVE THEM ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION.

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